Expansion of tele-medicine network

2082. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have plans to expand tele-medicine network to 23 more places in the country;

(b) how many places have rail tele-medicine network at present;

(c) the purpose of such peripheral activities;

(d) to what extent such tele-medicine centres would district the Railways from its primary function of making more trains available for more people at more places; and

(e) the steps proposed to focus on the core-functions of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present twelve places have rail tele-medicine network on the Indian Railways.

(c) The purpose of planning this activity is to make available timely specialist opinion to patients residing at remote areas and near their places of residence. This will avoid the long distance travel and thus inconvenience to patients.

(d) It will have no effect on the core functions of Railways.

(e) Upgradation of core functions is an ongoing process.

Survey for new line between Farrukhabad and Aligarh

2083. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently ordered survey for a new line between Farrukhabad and Aligarh *via* Aliganj, Jaithra, Etah and Sikandrarao;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other proposals to strength and augment train services in that sector; and

(d) by when the same are likely to materialize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In the area, gauge conversion of Kanpur-Farrukhabad-Kasganj has been completed and gauge conversion of Mathura-Kasganj-Bareilly is planned for completion within next two years. This will strengthen the broad gauge network service in this region. Further, with the completion of gauge conversion work of Farrukhabad-Kasganj section, 5 pairs of passenger train services have been introduced on the section w.e.f. 11.11.2007.